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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

Inspired by scholarship that traces the origins of neoliberalism to the economic crisis of the 1970s, this summer school aims to draw out the relationships between the neoliberal response to crisis and the socialist world. We seek to historicize how the crisis effected the trajectory of economic and social policy, and of political discourse, in East Europe, and to examine what role the second world played in adaptations to the crisis, as global markets expanded, and the region became increasingly intertwined with capitalist economies.

This summer school course will bring together an interdisciplinary team of international and local scholars whose research revisits the complex link between “socialist liberalization” and “postsocialist neoliberalization” in the context of uneven geographical development of capitalism and its systemic crises. Aiming to problematize analytical and advocacy approaches which serve to obscure certain continuities and ruptures, we will explore four analytic themes: 1) the “socialist origins of neoliberalism”; 2) connections between “liberalizing socialisms” and “neoliberalizing postsocialisms”; 3) the importance of the term liberalism and the near absence of critiques of neoliberalism (as such) in the region; and 4) the dynamics of crisis: finance and debt in socialist and postsocialist states.

During the two weeks of the summer school, classroom sessions will be supplemented by lectures, debates, and a field trip, and one-on-one and group consultations designed around developing small research projects. Throughout the course each participant will work with a group to develop a particular theoretical approach or set of questions within one of the four themes of the course. The group will apply this theoretical lens or set of questions to particular empirical cases of interest. Participants will present their findings at the end of the course.

The course invites applications from graduate students, researchers, and junior scholars in the social sciences. Working knowledge of substantive issues in the areas of socialism, postsocialist transformation, (neo)liberalization, and/or crises of capital is recommended.



Central European University's summer school (CEU SUN), established in 1996, is a program in English for graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, teachers and professionals. It offers high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary academic courses as well as workshops on policy issues for professional development, taught by internationally renowned scholars and policy experts (including CEU faculty). Application from all over the world is encouraged. Financial aid is available.

Application deadline: February 15, 2011

For further academic information on the course and on eligibility criteria and funding options please visit the web site in early November at

<http://www.summer.ceu.hu/neoliberalization>

CEU Summer University

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Apply online: <http://apply.embarc.com/nondegree/ceu>

Non-discrimination policy statement

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